

Claims

1. A parser system having:

an interface to receive a data stream composed of interleaved sections of a plurality of different packets, and section identity information about each  
5 of the sections of data defining which packet it relates to,

parsing means for processing the data stream section-by-section and employing the section identify information to identify and extract data.

2. A parsing system according to claim 1 further including user-programmable registers for storing offset information, the parsing means  
10 being arranged to identify structural features of the packets using the section identity information and the data sections themselves, and to employ offset data stored in the registers to identify and extract data from the packets in locations defined by the structural features of the packets and the offset data.

3. A parser system having:

15 an interface to receive a data stream composed of a series of data sections which are sections of packets;

one or more user-programmable registers,

parsing means for receiving the sections sequentially and employing offset information stored in the registers to identify and extract data from  
20 them.

4. A parser system according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 in which the parsing means includes a scanning section for obtaining structural data identifying the location of layers of data in the packets, and a parser section which uses the output of the scanning section and offset information to extract  
25 the data.

5. A parser system according to claim 4 when dependent on claim 2 or claim 3 in which the offset information for at least part of the data to be extracted is the offset information stored in the user-programmable registers.
6. A parser system according to claim 5 in which the parser means  
5 comprises a first parser which extracts data identified using offset information stored in the user-programmable registers, and a second parser which extracts data using predetermined offset information.
7. A parser system according to any of claims 4 to 6 in which the scanning system is adapted to identify tags in the data packets.
- 10 8. A method of parsing a data stream comprising transmitting it as a series of sections to a parsing system according to any preceding claim, the parsing system processing it section-by-section.